

to American society in innumerable ways. From literature and art to business, science, academia and government, Hispanic Americans have significantly and so positively impacted American culture. Among other great examples are Carlos Gutierrez, Chairman and CEO of the Kellogg Company since 2000, NASA Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, and former Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson. Each of these men and women has touched the lives of countless people of all races, religions, and ethnicities across the United States. It is with honor and gratitude, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all my colleagues to join me in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF LISA MORZEL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lisa Morzel, a retiring member of the Boulder, Colorado, City Council for her eight years of service to the Council and the community.

As a research geologist, Lisa has brought a great deal of knowledge about the topography of the Rocky Mountain region to complex land use decisions made by the Boulder City Council. She has also developed some expertise on the geology of Yellowstone National Park and the special volcanic dynamics of this region—especially the floor of Yellowstone Lake.

Her careful consideration of the development of many multi-faceted projects brought important insight to projects such as the development of a National Wildlife Refuge at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons facility, which will benefit the region's citizens for decades to come.

Through a commitment to thoughtful resource allocation, Lisa and the Boulder City Council were able to increase the City's financial reserves from two to fourteen percent, to cover unexpected crises. This was a critical measure, as this will help the City get through this current difficult economic situation.

During her tenure on City Council, Lisa was a partner in creating many improvements for pedestrian access throughout the city. Boulder has one of the most environmentally conscientious communities in the county and with the enhancement of bike paths, hiking trails and open space, the city provides a citizen-friendly environment.

Lisa was also a leader in recycling, and supported creation of the Boulder County Recycling Center and other efforts to promote recycling. Due in part to her efforts nearly half of waste that would otherwise end up in landfills is now recycled.

Lisa is a strong proponent of affordable housing in the city, and encouraged the Council to adopt new policies to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing in the community.

Lisa has already promised to remain involved in these and other important community issues after her term on Council ends. Her dedication to the city is to be commended. On behalf of Boulder's residents, I applaud Lisa for her years of commitment to public service.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. T. MICHAEL MOSELEY

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored and privileged to recognize one of the finest officers in the United States Air Force, recently promoted General T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley.

For the past two years, General Moseley has served with distinction in one of the most demanding Air Force positions: Commander, Ninth Air Force, Air Combat Command, which is headquartered in my district in Sumter, South Carolina. In that post he also served as Commander, United States Central Command Air Forces, United States Central Command. During his tenure, he prosecuted two of the most successful air campaigns in modern history, raising the bar for the optimum employment of air and space power in joint armed conflict.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, General Moseley took command of U.S. Central Command's air component. In this role, he provided air and space power for the Command's 25-nation area of responsibility that reaches from the Horn of Africa, across Iraq and Afghanistan, to the southern states of the former Soviet Union. At the peak of Operation Enduring Freedom, General Moseley directed over 11,000 combat sorties responsible for destroying over 4,600 Taliban and al Q'aeda targets—in support of our nation's war on terror. When U.S. forces had the terrorist organizations and their supporters on the run, the Central Command's focus shifted to sustaining our efforts to bring relief to the long-oppressed Afghani people. In the initial humanitarian phase, nearly 200 airdrop sorties were flown, delivering 2.4 million daily rations and nearly 1,900 tons of blankets and rice.

Following the successes of Operation Enduring Freedom, General Moseley was called upon to provide General Franks, now the former Commander of U.S. Central Command, with air power guidance and expertise as the planning and preparation intensified for military action that would eventually remove the tyrannical regime of Saddam Hussein. From logistics to civil engineering, readiness of personnel to sensitive theater engagement with friendly foreign allies, the air component's methodical preparation for Operation Iraqi Freedom was simply spectacular. The logistical train paved the way for the employment of nearly 30,000 air-to-ground weapons and air refueling offloads totaling more than 417 million pounds of fuel—enough to keep a Boeing 737–300 airborne for almost 12 years. As the logistical buildup steadily progressed, civil engineers and contractors were busy executing over 350 million dollars in facility upgrades at our friendly host nations' airfields, bolstering their ability to support the pending wartime taskings.

Employing thoughtful and polished diplomacy, General Moseley negotiated basing rights at 24 Arabian Gulf airfields and overflight rights for the coalition's 1,800 aircraft and over 1,350 cruise missiles, assets that were pivotal to conducting the air campaign on terms favorable to American and Coalition na-

tional security interests. At the peak of hostilities against the former Iraqi regime, nearly 55,000 United States Air Force personnel were deployed under General Moseley's control. These preparatory actions led to the successful execution of the coalition's overwhelming effort to free the people of Iraq from the clutches of Saddam Hussein. In overthrowing the regime, aircraft from our Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps was coupled with the air power of our coalition allies from the United Kingdom and Australia to execute the most successful air campaign in history. During the course of the 21-day campaign, General Moseley directed 41,000-plus sorties and was responsible for striking nearly 20,000 Iraqi targets—an astounding feat that is a testament to General Moseley's impeccable combat leadership.

To this day, the outstanding men and women of the United States Central Command Air Forces continue to support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, promoting and maintaining American interests in the region and reconstructing two pivotal countries where our efforts must not fail. While the majority of our air and space force have returned home from the Middle East and Central Asia, over 17,000 airmen remain deployed. They are serving under the most arduous conditions in Southwest Asia, defending the victories of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The continued sacrifices of these great Americans carries on our Nation's commitment to the security and prosperity of the region.

I was truly pleased with the President's recent nomination and the United States Senate's confirmation of General Moseley for his fourth star. It is exceptionally well-deserved, and I want to offer my congratulations to him; his wife, Jennie; their son, Greg; and their daughter, Tricia. I am proud to represent my fellow South Carolinians—citizens who have understood the meaning of sacrifice since the formation and creation of the United States—in thanking General Moseley and his family for their selfless dedication, commitment, and sacrifice.

General Moseley is a credit to both the United States Air Force and the United States of America. I wish him the best of luck in his assignment as Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters United States Air Force. I am confident of his continued success in his new position and look forward to seeing him back here in our Nation's capital.

HONORING LATINO SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN DURING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month and to recognize the longstanding contributions that the Latino community has made and continues to make through their participation in the armed forces.

New census data reports that the Hispanic community, which numbers almost 40 million, is now the largest minority group in the United States. As such, Latinos influence everyday

life in the United States through their participation in every sector of our society including business, the arts, sports, government, medicine and education. Of particular significance during these trying times, is the rich history of patriotism and sacrifice that the Latino community has made by serving proudly and with distinction in every major U.S. military conflict and in all branches of our armed services.

From the minutemen of the American Revolution to today's enlisted men and women in Iraq, the Latino community has a deep-rooted tradition of service in the U.S. military. Today there are 109,487 Latinos on active duty, representing approximately 9.5% of all active duty personnel. Latinos represent 9.7 percent of the Army, 10.5 percent of the Navy, 13.9 percent of the Marine Corps, and 3.4 percent of the Air Force.

Latinos have been recognized for their valor and bravery in some of this country's most important military confrontations. One of the greatest sources of pride among the Latino community is the 39 Medals of Honor awarded to Latinos in recognition of their valor. They are the largest single ethnic group, in proportion to the number who served, to earn this prestigious award.

During the American Revolution, soldiers from Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic fought alongside the colonists for independence. Cuban women donated their jewelry to aid the colonists, helping to finance the Yorktown Campaign.

In World War One, Latino soldiers were decorated with the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the Victory Medal with three bars, and the Purple Heart. During the Second World War, up to 500,000 Latinos served bravely—eleven receiving the Medal of Honor. Of particular mention is the story of Marine PFC Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon who single-handedly captured over 1,000 enemy soldiers in the summer of 1944, more than anyone else has in the history of military conflicts.

During the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment—a Puerto Rican regiment—was given special recognition for participating in nine major campaigns, capturing 2,086 enemy soldiers, and killing 5,095 enemy combatants. Individual members of this regiment were awarded four Distinguished Service Crosses and 124 Silver Stars. My family and I had personal acquaintance with a Korean War hero from my neighborhood in Boyle Heights when I was growing up in Los Angeles. Private First Class Eugene Obregon was awarded the Medal of Honor for sacrificing his life to save that of a wounded comrade.

Fourteen Hispanics were awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery during the Vietnam War. Navy Lt. Everett Alvarez became the first American prisoner of war (POW), and remained so for over 8 years, the longest confirmed POW in American history. The last American to leave Vietnam was Senior Master Sergeant Juan J. Valdez, who served at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and departed by helicopter on April 30, 1975.

When Iran held 52 American hostages in 1980, the Ayatollah offered to release all minorities. Marine Corporals Lopez and Gallegos refused, instead stating, "I am an American—I am a U.S. Marine, I will be the last one to leave," invoking the spirit of American patriotism above all else.

Today, as we wage the war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Latino community con-

tinues to prove its commitment to America by serving proudly and with honor. They remind all of us, that there is no better way to demonstrate devotion to your country than the willingness to make sacrifices for it. Through their service in the armed forces thousands of brave individuals in the Latino community have proven their love and dedication to our American values of liberty and freedom for all.

As we recognize the Latino community during National Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to thank the service men and women, both past and present, for their commitment and sacrifices to our country. They truly embody the spirit of pride and community that Hispanic Heritage Month is designed to celebrate.

RECOGNIZING THE COLORADO PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colorado Public Interest Research Group (CoPIRG) on the celebration of its 30th anniversary of operation in Colorado. This outstanding nonprofit organization has been recognized as one of the state's strongest grassroots groups devoted to advocacy, action and results.

In an effort to advocate for Colorado's citizens, CoPIRG's current programs focus on affordable health care, consumer protection, environmental advocacy, and the strengthening of our democracy.

The cost of health care and prescription drugs are soaring and senior citizens and the uninsured are paying a disproportionate share of their incomes for their basic health care needs. CoPIRG, through its surveys, is advocating for Congressional reforms and urging our state government to develop buying pools to benefit those on fixed incomes and without employment most impacted by these spiraling costs.

Coloradans have many areas where they need more personal and consumer protection. Through comprehensive reports each year prior to the holiday-giving season, Public Interest Groups across the nation have targeted unsafe toys in retail stores and on the Internet. For the past 17 years, these reports have led to over 100 recalls and prompted the passage of a federal toy labeling law in 1994.

Investor protections were highlighted last year when CoPIRG advocated for consumer privacy laws to protect credit card numbers from theft. This year, CoPIRG is working to strengthen laws governing the accounting industry in Colorado and increase funds for investigations and other reforms.

Targeting corporate fraud, a CoPIRG backed law helped create an independent oversight system to ensure that audit firms aren't subject to conflicts of interest. Through a research report, consumers can reduce their banking fees through better knowledge of industry charges. In 2001, predatory lending practices were exposed through CoPIRG's research, leading Colorado's Attorney General to file civil suits against offenders, the first such action in the nation. In another national first, Colorado passed a law to provide con-

sumers with free annual credit reports upon request.

On the front lines of environmental and public health protection, CoPIRG has fought to strengthen air standards, reduce pollutants that cause global warming, smog and increase respiratory diseases such as asthma. In a campaign to keep our water clean and safe for drinking and recreation, PIRGs nationally are working to enforce toxic regulations on corporate violators.

In an effort to protect our nation's coastlines, Public Research Interest Groups across the nation are advocating to leave wilderness areas free from oil and gas drilling. As one of the country's largest source of pollution, fossil fuels continue to be harmful to the nation. PIRGs across the country are working to support the use of renewable sources of energy through education and advocacy. With the motto, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, CoPIRG and other affiliates are building environmentally sound alternatives to keep our nation clean and safe for all its citizens.

Fighting for Colorado's citizens, CoPIRG has partnered with Colorado Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of Colorado, the Colorado Environmental Coalition and other advocacy organizations to direct a county by county effort to expand voter participation through Colorado Citizens' Voice. Using training workshops, the coalition supports citizen involvement in government decisions and works for meaningful reform on critical issues.

Through comprehensive reports and releases, CoPIRG keeps voters informed of campaign contributions, compiles statistics on campaign financing trends and continuously advocates for campaign finance reform and the protection of initiative process in Colorado.

For the past thirty years, Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West has been the proud home of Colorado Public Interest Research Group. For their many accomplishments on behalf of its citizens, we commend their service and wish them many years of future success.

RECOGNIZING AUGUSTINE GALLEGO DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which commemorates the numerous contributions that Latinos make to our country. It is my privilege today to recognize an extraordinary individual who shapes the future every day through his valuable work, San Diego Community College District Chancellor Augustine Gallego.

In his 14 years as Chancellor, Augustine "Augie" Gallego has earned a reputation as a national leader in higher education. He is the immediate past chair of the American Council on Education (ACE). Change Magazine recently named him as one of the 21 most influential higher education senior leaders in the United States. Locally, he is known for bringing together business leaders, community members, and politicians to find solutions for challenges within the educational system.